

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF the 243rd MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Cllr Norman in the Chair David Allison - Clerk

Cllrs Bains, Bennett, Birch, Brading, Dann, Jefford, Martin, Saxon and Shafe

Voting Members: 10

There was 1 member of the public present and 1 representative from the press.

CC623/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brand, Hollands, Seabourne, Seeley, Vassiliou and Wynne-Jones

CC624/09 Declarations of Interest by Members

The Chairman recommended that any declarations be made at the time.

CC625/09 Representations from the Public

Representations were made by one member of the public regarding a number of issues which, with one exception, appeared to have no apparent relevance to items on the Agenda. The speaker raised the matter of the maintenance contract for the Green but it was unclear as to the specific point he was making. The speaker left the meeting after giving his representations.

CC626/09 Minutes

Cllr Bennett pointed out that on the Minutes dated 29 January 2009 under CC619/09 Budget 2009-2010 page 3, Account Code 4036/150 Community Hall, that it had been agreed that the specific proposals relating to the external redecoration of the Community Hall and proposed Flood Prevention Work would be brought before Council prior to approval. Subject to this being noted, it was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Martin that the amended Minutes of the 241st Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 18 December 2008, the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 12 January 2009 and the Minutes of the 242nd Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 29 January 2009 be accepted. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

CC627/09 Matters Arising

Under item CC619/09 Budget 2009/2010 Account Code 1090/101 page 3, the Clerk was asked whether any progress had been made to consider alternative havens for the Council's Reserves. The Clerk advised that tentative research had showed that most of the alternatives looked at so far appeared to cater for the private investor rather than a corporate investor. The Clerk continued that this matter will be pursued further.

Under item CC591/08 Matters Arising, Council Website, the Clerk was asked what the current position was. The Clerk advised that the HTML template had been designed and agreed and this had been passed to the Content Management Software developers for integration. Once that had been undertaken, the Clerk continued, the software would be installed onto the Council's computer system for uploading content. The Clerk further advised that no timescale had been given for this but he would follow this up with the Contractor.

Under item CC610/08, the Clerk was asked whether certain information requested by a Councillor had been passed to him. The Clerk advised that this had been done.

- CC628/09 Committee Reports
- CC628.1/09 Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 3 February 2009
 It was proposed by Cllr Seeley and seconded by Cllr Jefford that the Minutes of the Environment and Amenity Committee held on Tuesday 3 February 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC628.2/09 Any matters arising
 Under item EA538/09, Active Works List, it was pointed out that the hedge adjacent to Watford Road/Mayfare had not, as yet, been trimmed at the top. The Clerk advised that the platform ladder to perform this task safely had not yet arrived but was expected imminently. It was suggested, however, that given that birds were beginning to nest, it might be inappropriate for the cut to be undertaken. The Clerk agreed and would advise the Rangers accordingly.
 Under item EA540/09, Planting of Commemorative Tree, it was advised that a Croxley Green Commoner had agreed for a tree to be planted on the Green adjacent to the fallen tree between Copthorne Road and Little Gillions crossover access. This matter would be pursued with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC).
 Under item EA541/09, Access to Stones Orchard from the Guild of Sport Sports Ground, it was advised that the Guild had had discussions with TRDC. However, TRDC were looking for a steer from Ward Councillors on this matter but at the end of the day, this was not down to TRDC and the Guild should be putting forward proposals for consideration.
- CC628.3/09 Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 February and 18 February
 It was proposed by Cllr Bains and seconded by Cllr Saxon that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 February and Wednesday 18 February 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC628.4/09 Any matters arising
 There were no matters arising.
- CC628.5/09 Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 12 February 2009
 It was proposed by Cllr Shafe and seconded by Cllr Norman that the Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee held Thursday 12 February 2009 be adopted. The proposal was agreed.
- CC628.6/09 Any matters arising from meeting held on 12 February 2009
 There were no matters arising.
- CC628.7/09 Any matters arising from Finance & meeting held on 8 January 2009
 There were no matters arising.
- CC629/09 Three Rivers Local Development Framework (LDF)
 The Chairman introduced this item and advised that the Clerk would give an overview of the 193 page document in the context of where Croxley Green is mentioned. The Clerks notes are attached.
 During the discussion, it was pointed out that there was no mention of the Croxley Green Parish Council as the first tier in local government in regard to working with TRDC on delivery of policy options where these are concurrent with the Council's own objectives. It was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Bennett that the Clerk writes to TRDC at this stage to highlight this shortfall. The proposal was agreed.

It was further agreed that the LDF be placed on forthcoming Agendas for the Environment and Amenity and Planning and Development Committees for further scrutiny and comment.

CC630/09 Contract for The Green & Stones Orchard

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that Members would recall that at the TRDC Executive Meeting held on 26 January 2009, the Grounds Maintenance Contract was awarded to Three Rivers Direct Services. The Clerk added that it was also agreed at that meeting that TRDC officers were to offer an Agreement to Croxley Green Parish Council for continuance of The Green and Stones Orchard maintenance. The Clerk continued that he was having monthly meetings with TRDC and at the meeting on 16 February, this matter had been broached. The Clerk stated that in the coming months he and officers at TRDC would be discussing this further and at the appropriate time the Clerk would report back to Council with details.

CC631/09 Peer Mentoring Programme

The Chairman introduced this item and advised that the initial introductory meeting had taken place on 11 February. The Chairman added that the informal discussions had proved very useful and that the topics for subsequent discussion had been circulated to Members with the Agenda.

The Chairman stated that the next internal meeting is scheduled for 31 March and he wished to encourage as many Members as possible to attend.

It was pointed out in the discussion that in regard to 'dual hatted Councillors' (those who are both Parish and District Councillors), it would be wholly inappropriate for certain Members to comment on matters at Parish level when they would be involved in the decision making process when in the role of a District Councillor. During the discussion and in the context of the Planning Development Control Committee at TRDC, it was considered that the Parish Council could do more in expressing its views on certain developments at the TRDC's Development Control Committee. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Planning & Development Committee for further discussion. It was noted that the matter of 'dual hatted Councillors' does cause some difficulties from time to time.

CC632/09 Correspondence

The Clerk referred those present to the list of relevant correspondence that had been circulated with the Agenda to Members.

In regard to correspondence with Hertfordshire Highways relating to S106 agreements, it was pointed out that reference to a set of Minutes did not explain the current position. The Clerk equally pointed out that it was not unusual to cross reference to a set of Minutes of a Committee or Council when dealing with other matters in order to point Members to the relevant material. The Clerk strongly pointed out that it would be inappropriate to repeat the minutes of meetings when the matter had already been covered elsewhere and indeed it would make this correspondence reporting mechanism unwieldy.

The Clerk also pointed out that as a result of the discussion on the matter of S106 at the Planning & Development meeting held on 21 January 2009, this matter was in essence closed as far as reporting is concerned. However, the Clerk noted the general thrust of the point being made.

CC633/09 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.